

# TENS OF MILLIONS KILLED AT THE HANDS OF THE CCP SINCE ITS FOUNDING 100 YEARS AGO

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#### **CCP AT 100 YEARS**

# A Century of Killing and Deceit

Tens of millions have been murdered at the hands of the brutal Marxist-Leninist regime

# Anti-Bolshevik League Incident

Less than a decade after the Party's founding, Mao Zedong, then the head of a communistcontrolled territory in southeast China's Jiangxi Province, launched a political purge of his rivals known as the Anti-Bolshevik League Incident. Mao accused his rivals of working for the Anti-Bolshevik League, the intelligence agency of the Kuomintang, which was China's ruling party at the time

The result was that thousands of Red Army personnel and Party members were killed in the purge.

The one-year-long campaign that started in the summer of 1930 marked the first in a series of movements helmed by the paranoid leader that only grew bloodier and broader with time. The

mass carnage lasted until Mao's death in 1976. While there's no record showing exactly how many CCP members were killed during the campaign, Chinese historian Guo Hua wrote in a 1999 article that within a month, 4,400 of the 40,000 Red Army members had been killed, including dozens of military leaders. Within a few months the CCP committee in southwestern Jiangxi had killed more than 1,000 of its non-military mem-

At the end of the movement, the Jiangxi CCP committee reported that 80 to 90 percent of the CCP officials in the region had been accused of being spies and executed.

Family members of senior officials were also persecuted and killed, the report said. The torture methods inflicted on CCP members, according to Guo, included burning their skin, cutting off females' breasts, and pushing bamboo sticks underneath their fingernails.

> Mao attends a conference related to arts and literature in Yan'an in 1942.

**NICOLE HAO** 

minorities.

ounded in July 1921, the Chinese

Communist Party (CCP) has

wreaked death and destruction on

Armed with the Marxist ideology of

"struggle" as its guiding principle, the CCP

has launched scores of movements targeting

a long list of enemy groups: spies, landlords,

intellectuals, disloyal officials, pro-democ-

With each campaign, the Party's pur-

heaven on earth." But time and again, the

results have been the same: mass suffering

and death. Meanwhile, a few elite CCP of-

incredible power and wealth.

ficials and their families have accumulated

More than 70 years of Party rule have

ported goal has been to create a "communist

racy students, religious believers, and ethnic

the Chinese populace for a century.



# Yan'an Rectification Movement

After becoming Party leader, Mao kickstarted the Yan'an Rectification Movement—the first ideological mass movement of the CCP-in 1942. From the CCP's base in the secluded mountainous region of Yan'an in the northwestern Shaanxi Province, Mao and his loyalists employed the familiar tactic of accusing his rivals of being spies in order to purge senior officials and other Party members.

All told, about 10,000 CCP members were killed.

During the movement, people were tortured and forced to confess to being spies, wrote Wei

#### Junyi in a 1998 book.

"Everyone became a spy in Yan'an, from middle-school students to primary school students," Wei, who was then editor of state-run news agency Xinhua, wrote. "Twelve-year-olds, 11-year-olds, 10-year-olds, even a 6-year-old spy was discovered!

The tragic fate of the family of Shi Bofu, a local painter, was recounted in Wei's book. In 1942, CCP officials suddenly accused Shi of being a spy and detained him. That night, Shi's wife, unable to cope with her husband's likely death sentence, took her own life and that of her two young children. Hours later, officials found her and the children's bodies and publicly proclaimed that Shi's wife had a "deep hatred" toward the Party and the people, and thus deserved to die.





Mao's brutality.

ther's drug addiction.

tortured to the brink of death.

The 2019 book "The Bloody Red Land"

chronicles the story of Li Man, a surviv-

ing landlord from southwest China's

Chongqing. After the CCP came into

power, officials claimed that Li's family

had stashed 1.5 metric tons of gold. But

this wasn't true, as the family had been

bankrupted years earlier due to Li's fa-

Having no gold to give to the CCP, Li was

"They took off my clothes, tied my hand

and feet to a pole. They then tied a rope

feet." Li recounted. He said that they then

hung the rope on a tree. Immediately, "blood

gushed out from my belly button," Li said.

Li was ultimately saved by a CCP official

who sent him to the home of a doctor of

Chinese medicine. Even after suffering

severe injuries to his internal organs and

genitals, Li still counted himself as lucky.

Another 10 people who were tortured at

the same time as Li all died. Over the next

few months, Li's close relatives and ex-

tended family would be tortured to death.

As a result of the torture, Li-who

was 22 years old at the time-lost his

# Land Reform

In October 1949, the CCP took control of China, and Mao became the regime's first leader. Months later, in the regime's first movement, named Land Reform, Mao mobilized the nation's poorest peasants to violently seize the land and other assets of those deemed landlords—many of whom were just morewell-off peasants. Millions died.

Mao, in 1949, was accused of being a dictator and admitted to it.

"My dear sirs, you are right, that is just what we are," he wrote, according around my genitals and tied a stone to my to China File, a magazine published by the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society. According to Mao, communists in power should be dictatorial against "running dogs of imperialism," "the landlord class and bureaucrat-bourgeoisie," and "reactionaries and their accomplices," who were associated with the opposition Kuomintang.

Of course, the communists decided who would qualify as a "running dog," a "reactionary," or even a "landlord."

"Many of the victims were beaten to death and some shot, but in many cases, they were first tortured in order to make them reveal their assets-real or imagined," according to historian Frank Dikötter, who has painstakingly chronicled

## **Great Leap** Forward

Mao launched the Great Leap Forward in 1958, a four-year campaign that sought to push the country to exponentially increase its steel production while collectivizing agriculture farming. The goal, as Mao's slogan goes, was to "surpass Britain and catch up with America."

Peasants were ordered to build backyard furnaces to make steel, leaving farmland in severe neglect. Moreover, overzealous local officials who were afraid of being branded as "laggards" set unrealistically high harvest quotas. As a result, peasants had nothing left to eat after turning over the bulk of their crops as taxes.

What ensued was the worst man-made disaster in history: the Great Famine, during which tens of millions died of starva-

Starving peasants turned to wild animals, grass, bark, and even kaolinite, a clay mineral, for food. Extreme hunger also drove many to cannibalism.

There are recorded cases of people eating the corpses of strangers, friends, and family members, and parents killing their children for food-and vice-versa. Jasper Becker, who wrote the Great

resulted in the killing of tens of millions of Chinese people and the dismantling of a 5,000-year-old civilization.

While China has advanced economically in recent decades, the CCP retains its nature as a Marxist-Leninist regime bent on solidifying its grip on China and the world. Millions of religious believers, ethnic minorities, and dissidents are still violently repressed today.

Below is a summary of some of the major atrocities committed by the CCP in its 100year history.

Eva Fu, Jack Phillips, Leo Timm, and *Cathy He contributed to this report.* 

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some of the accounts in this article contain graphic and disturbing details of torture and other forms of degrading treatment.

tion, from 1959 to 1961. A starving family, date unknown

What ensued was the worst man-made disaster in history: the Great Famine, during which tens of millions died of starvation, from 1959 to 1961. manhood. During the CCP's subsequent movements, Li would be tortured several more times, costing him his eyesight. Leap Forward account "Hungry Ghosts,"

one after another.

said that Chinese people were forced to engage-out of pure desperation-in selling human flesh on the market, and the swapping of children so they wouldn't eat their own

Across 13 provinces, there were a total of 3,000 to 5,000 recorded cases of cannibalism

Becker notes the cannibalism in China in the late 1950s and early '60s likely occurred "on a scale unprecedented in the history of the 20th century."

Chinese historian Yu Xiguang in the 1980s found an archival photo from his hometown in Hunan Province. It purportedly showed a man named Liu Jiayuan standing beside his 1-year-old son's head and bones. Liu eventually was executed for murder.

Yu later interviewed Liu's surviving family members in the 2000s to verify the story. He wrote in a report: "Liu Jiayuan was extremely starved. He killed his son and cooked [the flesh into] a big meal. Before finishing his food, his family members found his crime and reported him to the police. He then was arrested and executed."

As many as 45 million people died during the Great Leap Forward, according to historian Dikötter, author of "Mao's Great Famine."



Peng Dehuai, China's defense minister from 1954 to 1959, is subject to public denunciation during the Cultural Revolution.

# Cultural Revolution

After the catastrophic failure of the Great Leap Forward, Mao, feeling that he was losing his grip on power, launched the Cultural Revolution in 1966 in an attempt to use the Chinese populace to reassert control over the CCP and country. Creating a cult of personality, Mao aimed to "crush those persons in authority who are taking the capitalist road" and strengthen his own ideologies, according to an early directive.

Over 10 years of mandated chaos, millions were killed or driven to suicide in statesanctioned violence, while zealous young ideologues, the infamous Red Guards, traveled about the country destroying and denigrating China's traditions and heritage. It was a whole-of-society endeavor, with the Party encouraging people from all walks of life to snitch on co-workers, neighbors, friends, and even family members who were "counter-revolutionaries"—anyone with

politically incorrect thoughts or behaviors. The victims, who included intellectuals, artists, CCP officials, and others deemed as "class enemies," were subjected to ritual humiliation through "struggle sessions" public meetings where the victims would be forced to admit their supposed crimes and endure physical and verbal abuse from the crowd, before they were detained, tortured, and sent to the countryside for forced labor.

Traditional Chinese culture and traditions were a direct target of Mao's campaign to exterminate the "Four Olds"-old customs, old culture, old habits, and old ideas. As a result, countless cultural relics, temples, historical buildings, statues, and books were destroved.

Zhang Zhixin, an elite CCP member who worked in the Liaoning provincial government, was among the victims of the campaign. According to an account reported by Chinese media after the Cultural Revolution, a colleague reported Zhang in 1968 after she commented to that co-worker that she couldn't understand some of the CCP's actions. The 38-year-old was then detained at a local Party cadre training center, where nore than 30,000 staff members of the provincial government were being held.

While in detention, she refused to admit to doing anything wrong and stood by her political opinions. She was firmly loyal to the Party but disagreed with some of Mao's policies. She was sent to prison.

There, Zhang suffered horrendously as officials tried to force her to give up her viewpoints. Prison guards would use iron wire to keep her mouth open and then push a dirty mop into it. They handcuffed her hands behind her back and hung a 40-pound block of iron from the chains. Provincial CCP officials even ripped out all of her hair, and guards would often arrange for male prisoners to gang-rape her.

Zhang attempted to commit suicide but failed, which caused prison officials to step up their control. Her husband was also forced to divorce her. By early 1975, Zhang had descended into madness. In April of that year, she was executed by firing squad. Before being shot, the prison guards cut her trachea to silence her. She died at the age of 45.

During Zhang's detention, her husband and two young children were forced to renounce their relationship with her. Upon learning of her death, they didn't even dare cry—for fear that they would be heard by neighbors who might report them for bearing resentment toward the Party.

The disastrous movement ended in October 1976, less than a month after Mao's

The legacy of the Cultural Revolution goes far beyond the lives destroyed, according to Dikötter

"It is not so much death which characterized the Cultural Revolution, it was trauma," he told NPR in 2016.

"It was the way in which people were pitted against each other, were obliged to denounce family members, colleagues, friends. It was about loss, loss of trust, loss of friendship, loss of faith in other human beings, loss of predictability in social relationships. And that really is the mark that the Cultural Revolution left behind."

MANUEL CENETA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES woman when the army attacked stu-Square is carried away on a cart on June

**Tiananmen Square** Massacre

A young

wounded

ents nea

Tiananmen

4.1989.

What started as a student gathering to mourn the death of reform-minded former Chinese leader Hu Yaobang in April 1989 morphed into the largest protests the regime had ever seen. University students who congregated at Beijing's Tiananmen Square asked the CCP to control severe inflation, curb officials' corruption, take responsibility for past faults, and support a free press and democratic ideas.

By May, students from across China and Beijing residents from all walks of life had joined the protest. Similar demonstrations cropped up all over the country

CCP leaders didn't agree to the students' requests Instead, the regime ordered the army to quash

the protest. On the evening of June 3, tanks rolled into the city and surrounded the square. Scores of unarmed protesters were killed or maimed after being crushed by tanks or shot by soldiers firing



## Persecution of **Falun Gong**

A decade later, the regime decided to carry out another bloody suppression.

On July 20, 1999, the authorities began a wide campaign targeting the estimated 70 million to 100 million practitioners of Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that includes meditative exercises

# Suppression of Religious and **Ethnic Minorities**

To maintain its rule, the CCP regime transferred a large number of Han ethnic people to Tibet, Xinjiang, and Inner Mongolia, where ethnic groups live with their own cultures and languages. The regime forced local schools to use mandarin Chinese as the official language.

In 2008, Tibetans protested to express their anger at the regime's control. The regime, in response, deployed the police. Hundreds of Tibetans were killed. Since 2009, more than 150 Tibetans have selfindiscriminately into the crowd. Thousands are estimated to have died.

Lily Zhang, who was head nurse at a Beijing hospital a 15-minute walk from the square, recounted to The Epoch Times the bloodshed from that night. She woke up to the sound of gunfire and rushed to the hospital on the morning of June 4 after hearing of the massacre.

She was horrified when she arrived at her hospital to find a "warzone-like" scene. Another nurse, sobbing, told her the pool of blood from injured protesters was "forming a river at the hospital." At Zhang's hospital, at least 18 had died by the

time they were carried into the facility. The soldiers used "dum-dum" bullets, which would expand inside the victim's body and inflict further damage, Zhang said. Many sustained grave wounds and were bleeding so profusely that it was

"impossible to revive them." At the hospital gate, a critically injured reporter with the state-owned China Sports Daily told the two health workers who carried him that he "didn't imagine that the Chinese Communist Party would really open fire."

"Shooting down unarmed students and commoners-what kind of ruling party is this?" were his final words, Zhang recalled.

Then-Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who ordered the bloody clampdown, was quoted in a British government cable as saying that "two hundred dead could bring 20 years of peace to China," a month before the massacre in May 1989.

To this day, the regime has refused to disclose the number killed in the massacre or their names, and heavily suppresses information about the incident.

and moral teachings centered around the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance.

According to the Falun Dafa Information Center, a website for Falun Gong-related information, millions of practitioners have been fired from their jobs, expelled from school, jailed, tortured, or killed simply because they refused to give up their belief.

In 2019, an independent people's tribunal in London confirmed that the regime had carried out forced organ harvesting "on a significant scale" and that imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners were "probably the principal source."

He Lifang, a 45-year-old Falun Gong practitioner from Qingdao, a city in Shandong Province, died after being detained for two months. His relatives said there were incisions on his chest and back. His face looked as if he was in pain, and there were wounds all over his body. according to Minghui.org, a website that serves as a clearinghouse for accounts of the persecution of Falun Gong.

immolated, hoping their deaths might stop the regime's tight control in Tibet.

In Xinjiang, the regime authorities have been accused of committing genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, including detaining million people in secretive "political reeducation" camps

Last year, the regime in Beijing set a new policy that mandated Mandarin Chinese-only teaching in some Inner Mongolia schools. When parents and students protested, they were threatened with arrest, detention, and job loss.

The regime also uses a surveillance system to monitor ethnic groups. Surveillance cameras were set up in Tibetan monasteries, and biometric data are collected in Xinjiang.

# **One-Child Policy** In 1979, the regime launched the "one-

child policy," which allowed married couples to have only one child, in a campaign ostensibly aimed at boosting the standard of living by curbing population growth. The policy caused widespread forced abortions, forced sterilizations, and infanticide. According to Chinese Ministry of Health data cited by Chinese state media, 336 million fetuses were aborted from 1971

to 2013. Xia Runying, a villager from Jiangxi

Province who experienced forced sterilization, wrote in a public letter in 2013 that her family requested to postpone the surgery because of her poor health The local official, however, said that they would do the surgery even if she had to be tied up with ropes.

She began to urinate blood and have headaches and stomachaches after the surgery. Later, she was forced to stop working.

The regime discontinued the one-child policy in 2013, allowing two children. On May 31, it announced that families could have three children.





Cheung Kim Hung (C), CEO and executive director of Next Digital Ltd., is escorted by police from the offices of the newspaper Apple Daily in Hong Kong on June 17, 2021. Hong Kong police arrested the chief editor and four executives of the pro-democracy newspaper, raiding its newsroom for a second time, in the latest blow to the outspoker tabloid

#### **PRESS FREEDOM**

# Pro-Democracy Paper in Hong Kong Forced to Close Under CCP's Widening Repression Campaign

#### EVA FU

Apple Daily, an independent pro-democracy tabloid in Hong Kong known for its critical stance on China's Communist Party, has weathered police raids and the jailing of its founder. But its 26th birthday might be its last.

Hong Kong's government, backed by Beijing, has taken aim at the newspaper. Last week, 500 police officers barged into the newsroom, seizing computers and files and arresting five of the publication's executives. Two directors now face charges of colluding with foreign forces, an ambiguous offense under the draconian national security law imposed by Beijing last year.

Adding insult to injury, authorities froze the paper's assets as part of the investigation. With HK\$18 million (\$2.32 million) worth of assets on hold in local banks, it's now unable to pay its more than 800 staff members, and could be just days away from shutting its doors, the paper says.

The outlet's looming closure "marks the end of an era," Mary, a senior employee at Apple Daily using a pseudonym, told The Epoch Times. "The disappointing part is, we are shut down not because readers don't like us or that we lack good management. We have a lot of supporters and could have continued.

"It's saddening. It makes you wonder why Hong Kong has become like this."

The company marked the 26th year of its founding on June 20. The next day, a news anchor bid farewell as 36,000 people watched the last episode of its evening live broadcast. The company has ceased updating its online English site and the finance section of its Chinese-language site.

June 25 will be the paper's last working day if the government denies an appeal to unfreeze Apple Daily's funds. It might stop printing as early as June 26.

Readers have showered the outlet with support by sending food, drinks, and thank you cards, or buying their print copies, Mary said. Their encouragement is the driving force for her to keep going.

"I just feel that I need to be responsible for these readers. If there are people who still read your newspaper, you need to keep writing," she said.

Apple Daily was founded in Hong Kong in 1995 by Chinese dissident and textile tycoon Jimmy Lai, a leading opposition voice to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) who is currently jailed for taking part in a pro-democracy assembly in 2019.

The disappointing part is, we are shut down not because readers don't like us or that we lack good management. We have a lot of supporters and could have continued.

Mary (pseudonym), senior employee, Apple Daily

What happened to Apple Daily is proof of the harm the national security law can do to the Hong Kong press, Mary said. Since it took effect last July, the law has been used to arrest and charge an array of figures

"It's likely to send a chill to the news industry," she said. "Because the police and the government haven't clarified what reporting or opinion articles they have deemed as a violation of the national security law, everyone will now be very careful with what they write and report."

In support of the collusion charges, police said they have identified more than 30 Apple Daily articles, in both Chinese and English, since 2019 that called for foreign countries to impose sanctions on China or Hong Kong, but wouldn't reveal details because of ongoing legal proceedings—the first time that news articles have been cited as potentially violating the law. It paints a bleak future for Hong Kong's

media, Mary said. "It will leave many journalists in fear be-

cause you don't know what is illegal." Hong Kong's press freedom has plummeted in recent years, particularly after the national security law went into effect in July 2020. According to the press freedom index compiled by the Hong Kong Journal-

ists Association, the index for journalists hit a record low of 32.1 last year-down from 40.9 in 2018

On June 22, the pro-Beijing Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam defended the police raid, critical of the CCP in the city, crippling calling Western criticisms an attempt to Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. "beautify" actions that endanger national security. She ignored an Apple Daily re porter who shouted as she left: "You said the national security law only affected a small number of people. But more than 800 people from our company are now forced out of their jobs. Can you respond to this?"

The reporter was referencing statements by Hong Kong and Beijing authorities who, prior to the law's introduction, claimed that it would only target a "small number of criminals."

"The Chinese Communist Party is 100 percent forcing Apple Daily to close down, this has been clear long ago," said Chen Yonglin, a former Chinese diplomat who defected to Australia more than a decade ago.

Chen pointed to the slew of arrests of prominent protest organizers within the past year as evidence that the CCP has exerted its influence over Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong has long fallen," he told The Epoch Times. "Eventually, Hong Kong will become a Chinese city, and the word 'special administrative region' will [be] no more—it will be just Hong Kong city [of China]."

ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



An employee collates sections of freshly printed copies of Apple Daily at its printing facility in Hong Kong on June 18, 2021.

#### **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

# The Show the Chinese Communist Party Doesn't Want You to See

#### **CATHERINE YANG**

here's little that scares the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) more than the growing popularity of traditional culture-embodied in the brilliant sights and sounds of Shen Yun Performing Arts.

It makes sense. New York-based Shen Yun's mission is to revive 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, an ancient culture centered around harmony between heaven, earth, and humankind—a culture said to be passed down from the divine. This is everything the CCP has been working to destroy since the Party's inception.

"Absolutely, this is blacklisted. This is the biggest threat to the Chinese Communist Party," said Jared Madsen, one of Shen Yun's emcees. "If people believe there's something beyond the Chinese Communist Party, they believe there's something higher ... that's a major threat to the Chinese Communist Party."

As such, the CCP has done everything from slashing Shen Yun's tour bus tires to hiring hordes of internet trolls to skew perception of the company on social media, to having Chinese consulates write letters to local officials saying that their letting Shen Yun perform in their areas would damage relations with China, to calling up theaters themselves (or through hired proxies) to demand Shen Yun be canceled. The interference goes back over a decade and has been well documented, and actually often backfires.

These measures may sound extreme, because Shen Yun is not even a political show. It's a performance of classical Chinese dance, of ethnic and folk dances from China's 50-some minority groups, of bel canto solos, and of an orchestra blending Eastern and Western traditions. And audiences step out of the theater aglow, uplifted by the performance, and happy to have learned the truth about the authentic culture of China, something little known in the West precisely because the Party has tried to erase it.

"Fundamentally, the Chinese Communist Party is an atheist regime. Shen Yun reflects 5,000 years of Chinese culture, and Chinese culture is rooted in divine thought—all different types of divine thought: Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism-that goes directly against the atheist principles of communism," Madsen said.

The CCP is afraid because Shen Yun shows China before communism.

What Is Traditional Culture? One of the methods the CCP has used in trying to discredit Shen Yun is to create its own performing arts troupes, sending them all around the world.

"They created all these companies ... that they sent to the US. Now, have you heard of any of these?" Madsen said. "No, because they weren't very good. Why? Because no one wants to

see communist propaganda." In more recent years, the Party's method has evolved, and they talk often of promoting "traditional culture" and having major arts organizations emphasize "classical" dance in ways that turn out to be just lip service.

"When they do talk about traditional Chinese culture, they use it to try to promote communism. I mean here, we see right through it, like 'this is propaganda, and nobody wants to watch this," Madsen said.

It's worth understanding that all major organizations in China are staterun. Huang Peng, a violinist and vocalist with Shen Yun, explained how being an artist in China and in America has been like

night and day.

Huang once had a prestigious career as a violinist. He studied the instrument under his father from childhood and successfully auditioned into a well-known philharmonic orchestra.



A performance by Shen Yun Performing Arts classical Chinese dancers.

But then in 1999, the CCP began a persecutory campaign against Falun Gong, with official orders to ruin the livelihoods and reputations of those who would not give it up. Peng was one of an estimated 100 million people in China who followed this spiritual practice that teaches truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. He was also one of several million who would not give up his faith, and he tried to tell his colleagues and those around him about the truth of Falun Gong: that it is good, teaches people to be kind, and that the CCP was circulating blatantly false and slanderous information about the practice.

Huang was telling his fellow musicians about Falun Gong one day when a supervisor reported him to the police, who then ransacked his home and detained him for 24 hours where they kept him awake. Meanwhile, they also illegally arrested his mother for no reason other than to coerce him into writing and signing a testimony not only stating he would give up his faith, but denigrating it as well.

Huang refused, and he was fired. His first thought was to seek work in another city, with a fresh start, but at the airport he learned that he had been blacklisted and was once again detained. Except this time, Huang was put in a "transformation class," shorthand for brainwashing, and he didn't see the outside world for the next two months.

Much has been documented about the CCP's brutal torture and organ harvesting of groups of its own citizens, like spiritual believers of Falun Gong. But Huang's torture was mental; he was put under 24hour surveillance, made to watch brainwashing films, and threatened in myriad ways. Under the intense pressure, he signed the testimony. "After returning home, it felt like there was a knife in my heart," Huang said. He did what he most wanted not to do, and the mental persecution had stolen his integrity.

> He spent the next few years constantly on the run. Not letting his regret weigh him down, he taught himself how to make and produce fliers that had information about the truth of Falun Gong, and taught others how to do the same, putting himself at risk for another illegal arrest. Huang had to give up his art, and it devastated him and his father both, but his faith was more important.

Then in 2008 he heard about Shen Yun, and in 2014 he was able to leave the country and successfully auditioned to be a part of the performing arts company he had looked up to.

"In mainland China, the state won't

allow people who practice Falun Gong to perform on stage. But here, we have freedom of belief. I think this is so important, as an artist," he said. But why Shen Yun?

"Shen Yun's mission is to revive China's 5,000 years of traditional culture," he said. "It is a divinely inspired culture and a divine message. And it is a message of kindness, which can move people's hearts."

#### The Truth Wins Out

Shen Yun was formed by a group of artists—some who left China, some who came by way of other parts of the world who came together in New York in order to do what they couldn't in their home COUNTRY

And despite the CCP's long arm of influence, despite its making use of the entire state apparatus to discredit the company, Shen Yun has become a worldwide phenomenon.

"I remember there was one night, I believe in 2009, when we had three companies, and I got a phone call," Madsen said. "All three shows were sold out. That was the point. From that moment forward, we usually sold out every show."

Today, Shen Yun has seven companies that simultaneously tour the world, giving hundreds of performances in over 100 cities globally. It's the only performing arts group of its kind, dedicated not just to preserving but also to reviving traditional Chinese culture. Audience members often express intrigue, piqued by the many rave reviews, and want to see what the "world's premier classical Chinese dance company" looks like in action.

Audiences leave having all expectations filled and more, because Shen Yun is unique among performing arts companies as well, choreographing over a dozen new dances every season with a full-scale production that rivals top opera houses' most lavish pieces.

"The production value is incredibly high," Madsen said. "That alone, this is a show you can really get immersed in."

But while the one-of-a-kind costumes, and orchestra, and digital backdrops dazzle, he thinks there is something deeper that the audiences leave with.

"There's this constant human pursuit of something greater, something bigger, something better—not just that, something deeper, something higher. All of that. It all comes together," he said. "And our show really brings that out and brings that to life."

"It really goes beyond a cultural show. It's these deep values and deep principles," he said.

NTD contributed to this report.

The Epoch Times is a proud sponsor of Shen Yun Performing Arts. For more information please visit ShenYunPerformingArts.org



This is the biggest

Communist Party.

Jared Madsen, emcee,

Shen Yun

threat to the Chinese



(Top) Huang Peng, violinist for Shen Yun Performing Arts.

(Above) Jared Madsen, emcee for Shen Yun Performing Arts.

#### **ANALYSIS**

# Scientists Obfuscated Source of COVID-19-Like Virus Stored at Wuhan Lab

Virus named RaTG13 was discovered in an abandoned mine in Mojiang, Yunnan, nearly 10 years ago

#### **JEFF CARLSON & HANS MAHNCKE**

Shi Zhengli, the director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), is the common thread through which many key research projects and gain-of-function experiments on coronaviruses are connected.

Her work shows a curious pattern of deception, tracing through her publications from 2013 to 2020, in which a key source for the coronavirus most closely related to COVID-19 was concealed.

In 2002, an outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as SARS resulted in the deaths of 774 people worldwide. Investigations quickly established that the virus spread from bats to civets and then on to people.

The SARS outbreak would prove to shape Shi's career, moving her from field research to work in level-2 biosafety labs before culminating in gain-of-function experiments in China's first and only level-4 lab, located in Wuhan.

Her search for the originating source of the SARS outbreak began in 2004, when she joined an international team of researchers to collect samples from bats in Southern China.

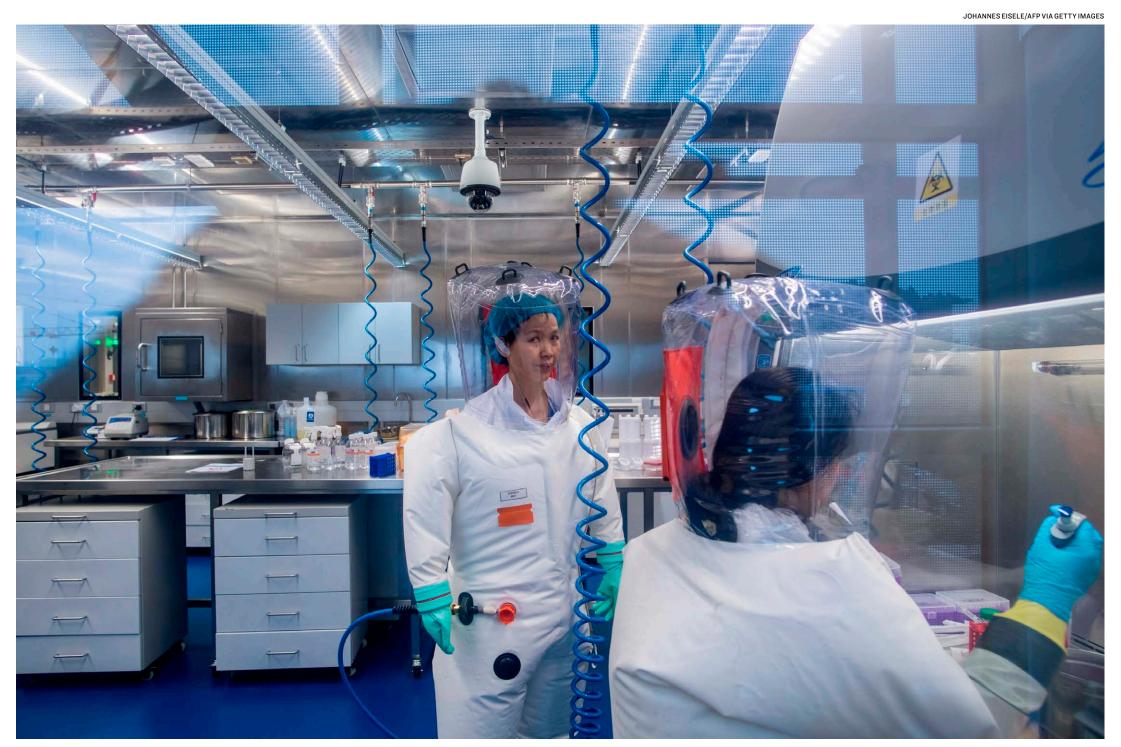
It is undeniable that Shi quietly kept the closest known relative to COVID-19 in her Wuhan lab for at least seven years and failed to address her discovery's true origins.

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Shi's early research was captured in a 2005 article, in which she reported that "species of bats are a natural host of coronaviruses closely related to those responsible for the SARS outbreak."

Shi and her team would continue their search for the source of the 2002 outbreak for years, and the samples her team collected were sent to Wuhan for analysis and further experimentation. On Dec. 12, 2007, Shi and her team published a paper in the Journal of Virology that showed how viruses could be manipulated to infect and attack human cells using an HIV-based pseudovirus. This experiment, funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was the first indication that Shi's Wuhan laboratory was acquiring the technologies and skills

required to manipulate viruses collected in the wild. In June 2010, Shi co-authored a paper showing that her team had built on the 2007 experiments by manipulating additional bat virus specimens and testing their interactions with human SARS-CoV spike proteins. They found that the "al-



Her work shows a curious pattern of deception, tracing through her publications from 2013 to 2020, in which a key source for the coronavirus most closely related to COVID-19 was concealed.

The P4 laboratory on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei Province, on May 27, 2020.

teration of several key residues either decreased or enhanced bat ACE2 receptor efficiency." The study was again funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 2011 and 2012, Shi and her team

conducted a "12-month longitudinal survey" of a colony of horseshoe bats "at a single location in Kunming city, Yunnan province, China." This single location was Shitou Cave.

While Shi and her team were conducting their survey at Shitou Cave, an unrelated group of six workers began clearing bat excrement from a copper mine shaft in Mojiang, Yunnan—approximately 200 miles away from Shi's group—according to The Sunday Times.

In April 2012, according to The Wall Street Journal, those six workers became seriously ill from a pneumonialike disease that resulted in the deaths of three of the men. Notably, all of the

public reports state that the mine shaft was abandoned, but none of those same reports explain why the six miners were there to clean the shaft out.

There was no media mention of this strange, isolated outbreak, and as the Sunday Times notes, there "appears to have been a media blackout ing the entire incident.

Shi and her team, fortuitously already in the region during this new outbreak, abruptly shifted both their focus and location and spent the next two years collecting samples from bats located in the mine at the Mojiang location.

A virus allegedly found in one of these samples was later revealed to be the closest known match to the virus that causes COVID-19.

The finding of this particular viral sample appears to have been akin to finding a needle in a haystack. Although



the Mojiang location turned up vast amounts of coronaviruses, only one of them resembled SARS and was reportedly found in a single fecal sample. Shi's team named the virus RaBtCoV/4991. Peter Daszak, the president of Eco-Health Alliance, confirmed the fortuitous finding to The Sunday Times.

"It was just one of the 16,000 bats we sampled. It was a faecal sample, we put it in a tube, put it in liquid nitrogen, took it back to the lab. We sequenced a short fragment," he said.

It isn't known whether Daszak, who used funding from the National Institutes of Health to provide the WIV with grants to research bat coronaviruses, was present at the Mojiang mine site, but he's a co-author of a paper describing the group's findings.

Shi's Conflicting Scientific Articles The more complete tale unfolds in an examination of five articles in Western science journals that Shi and her research collaborators published between 2013 and 2020.

An Oct. 30, 2013, paper written by Shi and Daszak highlighted the first-ever "isolation and characterization of a bat SARS-like coronavirus that uses the ACE2 receptor."

Their paper noted that their "results provide the strongest evidence to date that Chinese horseshoe bats are natural reservoirs of SARS-CoV, and that intermediate hosts may not be necessary for direct human infection by some bat SL-CoVs."

In other words, their 2013 paper specifically noted the possibility of direct transmission from bats to humans.

The paper also referred to the "first recorded isolation" of a live SARS-like coronavirus known as WIV1—apparently shorthand for Wuhan Institute of Virology 1. The virus was isolated from fecal samples taken from the horseshoe bats.

By this time, Shi had spent almost two years collecting bat samples from the Mojiang mine. Notably, her scientific papers make no mention of the mine, of the 2012 outbreak, or of the miners or their deaths.

As their 2013 paper notes, the group claimed that all of their results came from a "single location in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China"-the location of Shitou Cave.

upon arriving at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan in China's central Hubei Province on Feb. 3, 2021.

Peter Daszak speaks to media

Shi called this virus RaTG13, a name that hadn't previously appeared in any of her articles.

Chinese virologist Shi Zhengli inside the P4 laboratory in Wuhan, capital of China's Hubei Province, on Feb. 23, 2017.

Shi's 2020 article also alleged that the pandemic had 'started from a local seafood market.' That false claim, which has been disproven, wasn't addressed in Shi's addendum.



More specifically, Shi's 2013 paper, along with a follow-up paper in November 2015, appeared to intentionally conceal her years-long work at the Mojiang mine, as well as the crucial fact that the mine—not the bat cave in Kunming was the true source for what would become known as the closest relative to the virus that causes COVID-19.

The 2015 article written by Shi, along with Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina and others, revisited the presence of the virus in horseshoe bats. Notably, the article doesn't directly specify the location from which the virus was sourced, but instead uses a footnote to reference the 2013 article, which claimed that the source came from a "single location in Kunming" the location of Shitou Cave.

The paper notes that "a SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence." The researchers observed that some of the viruses that they found "replicate efficiently in primary human airway cells." The researchers stated that their work

"suggests a potential risk of SARS-CoV re-emergence from viruses currently circulating in bat populations." But again, just like her 2013 article, no

reference to the Mojiang mine as the actual source was made

However, within less than three months, in a follow-up to the November 2015 paper, Shi and her team acknowledged in a February 2016 article that they had "conducted a surveillance of coronaviruses in bats in an abandoned mineshaft in Mojiang County, Yunnan Province, China, from 2012–2013."

In this same article, Shi admitted that she obtained a virus called RaBtCoV/4991 from 276 bat fecal probes that "were sampled in a mineshaft in Mojiang." As we now know, the RaBtCoV/4991 virus has been shown to be the closest known match to the virus that causes COVID-19. Shi renamed this same virus as RaTG13 in early February 2020—just as the CO-VID-19 pandemic had begun to emerge.

A database of bat viruses published by the Chinese Academy of Sciences-the parent body of the WIV—confirms that the RaBtCoV/4991 virus was "discovered on July 24, 2013, as part of a collection of coronaviruses that were described in the 2016 paper on the abandoned mine," The Times reported.

The Chinese database specifically references Shi's Feb. 18, 2016, paper, which makes note of the mineshaft in Mojiang, along with the discovery of multiple coronaviruses—including the new SARS-like strain—but makes no mention of the 2012 respiratory outbreak, nor of the resulting deaths of the miners.

In 2017, Shi and her team would once again shift focus away from the Mojiang mine and back to Shitou Cave, claiming: "We have carried out a five-year longitudinal surveillance (April 2011 to October 2015) on SARSr-CoVs in bats from a single habitat in proximity to Kunming city, Yunnan Province, China"-the region where Shitou Cave is located.

For reasons yet unknown, any mention of the Mojiang mine, where Shi and her team spent two years collecting bat samples culminating in the discovery of the closest known relative to COVID-19, was once again conspicuously omitted.

One of Shi's co-authors on the 2013 and 2017 articles, Linfa Wang, has since come to prominence as a vocal propo-

nent of the natural origins theory pertaining to the virus. Wang, a member of the World Health Organization's Emergency Response Team for the COVID-19 outbreak, discussed the issue of funding with National Geographic in June 2020, noting that when it comes to infectious diseases, "people never realize there's a huge return."

"When we have prevented small outbreaks, people don't care. It doesn't get media attention," he said.

Wang, who has been collaborating with Shi since at least 2005, finished by asking a question that called to mind the 2012 outbreak at the Mojiang mine:

"In Wuhan, if three people died and it was controlled, would we know it? No. This is happening all the time. It's just in remote villages where people die. You bury them and end of the story, right?"

Of the many articles written regarding their multiyear work, only the 2016 piece acknowledges the existence of the Mojiang mine. And, again, nowhere does Shi or her team make any mention of the actual outbreak and the deaths of three of the six infected miners.

Shi's years-long possession of the virus found in the Mojiang mine was suddenly highlighted on Feb. 3, 2020, when Shi and her collaborators published a new article stating that scientists at the Wuhan lab had a close match to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Shi called this virus RaTG13, a name that hadn't previously appeared in any of her articles. The 2020 article was notably vague about the origins of this new virus, simply stating that it "was previously detected in Rhinolophus affinis from Yunnan province." As independent researchers later found out by comparing genome sequences from archived Chinese databases, the virus that Shi referenced in 2020 was actually RaBtCoV/4991, the virus that was taken from the Mojiang mine back in 2012 and written about in 2016.

In November 2020, as more facts were uncovered in relation to the virus's origins, Shi suddenly added an addendum to her February 2020 article, finally admitting that COVID-19's closest known relative had come from the Mojiang mine. However, Shi referred to the Mojiang mine as a "mine-cave" and "cave," once again blurring the lines between the Mojiang mine and the Shitou Cave, located 200 miles apart.

In this addendum, Shi acknowledged that she had renamed the virus from RaBtCoV/4991 to RaTG13, supposedly in order to "reflect the bat species." However, both the previous designation and the new designation carry the letters "RA", which stand for Rhinolophus affinis, the Latin term for intermediate horseshoe bats.

Notably, Shi's 2020 article also alleged that the pandemic had "started from a local seafood market." That false claim, which has been disproven, wasn't addressed in Shi's addendum.

Although it isn't yet known precisely why Shi obscured the true origins of RaBtCov/4911 and obfuscated her 2013 discovery, it's undeniable that Shi quietly kept the closest known relative to COV-ID-19 in her Wuhan lab for at least seven years and failed to address her discovery's true origins.

Jeff Carlson and Hans Mahncke are cohosts of the program "Truth Over News" on EPOCH TV.



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